Question 5. Can you show how the NITs and DCID 1/2 are effective
in prioritizing collection requirements, or are the
prerogatives of the collection asset manager the
principal factor affecting tasking priorities?

Response:

There are practical limits to how finely intelligence collection
activities can be tuned in response to NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities.
This is because intelligence collection systems--human or technical--
are directed, in the first instance, at targets. These targets in turn
yield information, typically on multiple problems, and not all that is
needed on any one problem. The potential yield of a particular target
system usually does not neatly match the generic requirements categories
of the DCID 1/2 priorities document or the requirements statements of a
current NIT. Moreover, requirements priorities systems can be applied
to collection planning and programming only in conjunction with other
essential considerations, such as:

(1) The adequacy of information and intelligence
already available,

(2) The feasible means of acquiring or producing
needed additional intelligence,

(3) The level of effectiveness of current resources,
and

(4) The expected impact of more or fewer resources.

This having been said, it is a fact that tasking by each of the
collection disciplines now includes explicit consideration of NITs
and DCID 1/2 priorities as standing policy and as part of the mechanics
of the tasking process. These priorities undoubtedly are the most
important factors affecting the direction and emphasis of collection
tasking.

The actual measurement and demonstration of the effectiveness of
collection requirement priorities with some precision is difficult.
It cannot be done solely in terms of resources expended on collection
because there is no direct relation between the importance of informa-
tion required and the cost to acquire it. Nor can it be done in terms
of the volume of data collected, because there is no close relationship
between the importance of information required and its volume. It
probably can best be done by relating collection priorities to intel-
ligence consumer satisfaction and effective policy support rendered.
The Tasking Architecture Office of the Collection Tasking Staff is
establishing a permanent survey system to analyze this relationship
as part of its function.